

CLAIMS

1. A disk playback apparatus having access means for accessing a disk, and access-control means for controlling said access means to an arbitrary position on said disk, comprising:

5 storage means divided into a first area for storing at least a set of audio data having a specific length for at least one track, and a second area for storing remaining audio data for said one track;

10 write means which accesses said disk, thereby writing into said first area said audio data having said specific length and whose start point is an arbitrary position on said one track, and writing said remaining audio data into said second area during playback of said audio data having said specific length; and

15 read means for reading said audio data having said specific length and said remaining audio data continuously.

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2. The disk playback apparatus defined in claim 1, further comprising transfer means for transferring to said first area audio data from a read point of said second area, wherein

20 said write means writes, during playback of said remaining audio data, said audio data from said read point having been transferred by said transfer means into said first area, and said remaining audio data of said one track of said audio data from said read point having been written into said first area in said second area; and

25 said read means reads audio data from said read point having been written into said first area and said remaining audio data of said one track of

said audio data from said read point having been written into said second area continuously.

3. A disk playback method for a disk playback apparatus which accesses

5 a disk, thereby storing audio data having a specific length and whose start point is an arbitrary position into a first area in advance, and playing back said audio data stored in said storage means, comprising steps of:

reading said audio data having said specific length and whose start point is said arbitrary position on said one track;

10 during reading of said audio data having said specific length, accessing said disk, thereby starting writing of remaining audio data on said one track into a second area of said storage means; and

reading said remaining audio data continuously subsequent to said audio data having said specific length.

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4. The disk playback method defined in claim 3, further comprising steps of:

during reading of said remaining audio data, transferring audio data from said read point in said second area to said first area;

20 writing said audio data from said read point having been transferred into said first area;

reading said audio data from said read point having been written into said first area;

25 during reading of said audio data from said read point, accessing said disk, thereby beginning to write into said second area of remaining said audio

data on said one track of said audio data from said read point having been written into said first area in said second area; and

reading said remaining audio data of said one track of said audio data from said read point in said second area continuously subsequent to said

- 5 audio data from said read point in said first area.